

**CALIFORNIA HIGH-SPEED RAIL AUTHORITY
MEETING MINUTES
August 3, 2005
ORANGE, CALIFORNIA**

The meeting of the California High-Speed Rail Authority was called to order on August 3rd at 1:30 p.m. at the Orange County Transportation Authority Building, Orange, CA.

Members Present: Joseph E. Petrillo, Chair
Donna Lee Andrews, Vice Chair
Fran Florez, Vice Chair
Rod Diridon, Sr.
T.J. Stapleton

Opening Comments

Chair Petrillo thanked the audience for coming to today's meeting.

Approval of Meeting Minutes for the following Authority Meetings:

Chair Petrillo presented the minutes from the May 25, 2005 meeting for approval. Member Stapleton moved to approve the minutes, Member Diridon seconded, which carried 5-0.

Authority Members' Meetings for Compensation

Chair Petrillo presented the list of meetings for compensation for approval. Member Andrews and Member Diridon had additional meetings to be added. Member Stapleton moved to approve the list of meetings for compensation, Member Diridon seconded, which carried 5-0.

Election of Officers

Member Diridon nominated Vice Chair Fran Florez as Chairperson for the upcoming fiscal year (2005/2006), Member Andrews seconded the motion and carried 5-0. Member Stapleton nominated Member Andrews to remain as Vice Chair, Member Diridon seconded the motion and carried 5-0. Member Diridon nominated Vice Chair Adelman to remain as Vice Chair, Member Petrillo seconded the motion and carried 5-0.

Presentation to the Board

Mayor Curt Pringle welcomed the Board to the city of Orange. The mayor commented that Orange is the largest county in the nation and the city of Anaheim is one of the largest cities in the county. Transportation issues are a key factor to the region and the City of Anaheim has a strong commitment to developing the Anaheim Regional Transit Intermodal Center. This center will be a major transportation hub for the entire county, where all the different forms of transportation will merge including: Metrolink, the local bus system, and "hopefully" High-Speed Rail and a Mag Lev system connecting to Las Vegas. Because of the region's commitment to transportation, the city of Anaheim is prepared to finance Environmental Impact reports to demonstrate the positive economic environment for routes including the Anaheim/Los Angeles region.

Members Reports

Member Petrillo had a meeting with the Natural Resources Defense Council, several of the local political leaders in Los Angeles and the Mayor's Office. Member Petrillo stated he was pleased with the staff's recommendation to include a wider corridor for study, between Burbank and Los Angeles Union Station, in the Final EIR/EIS.

Member Petrillo mentioned an Article in a San Francisco newspaper concerning the Baby Bullet trains between San Jose and San Francisco. The article listed the addition of ten more trains for the area because of the success of these trains. This success demonstrates the public interest in finding alternate and safe ways to travel throughout the state.

Member Diridon commented that the merger between HSGTA and APTA is nearing completion. The merge will form a High-Speed and Intercity Rail Committee which should better serve the development of High-Speed Rail in California.

Member Diridon has spoken with several media groups regarding terrorism. He has worked towards addressing the public concerns regarding terrorism and brought awareness to existing measures to prevent terrorism on rail transit.

Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Morshed reported on AB 713, which is the legislation to postpone the High-Speed Rail bond measure until November 2008. The bill passed the Assembly and is waiting a hearing in the Senate Transportation Committee. The chairman of the Senate Transportation Committee indicated that the bill would not be scheduled for hearing this year. Although the deadline is past, the Senate could still meet and decide on the pending legislation when the Legislature reconvenes on August 15th.

Executive Director Morshed reported on AB 1173, which would extend the language in the bond measure from San Francisco to Los Angeles to be changed to San Francisco to Los Angeles/Anaheim. The bill passed the Assembly Transportation Committee and is currently in the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

Executive Director Morshed reported on the state budget, which included the funding for the Authority. In addition to the operating budget, the Authority received 1.7 million for the Northern Mountain Crossing, \$500k for the AG's office to defend the environmental document and \$500k for the financing plan that was requested. These funds were contingent to the resolution of AB 713. Thanks to Member Giroux these ties were removed for the 1.7 million and \$500k for environmental defense, but the contingency still exists for the \$500k financing plan.

Executive Director Morshed reported that within the next few weeks, staff will be moving forward with the Northern Mountain Crossing program EIR/EIS study.

Executive Director Morshed reported that the next Authority Meeting in September will be in San Francisco or Oakland. The Japanese group, which presented a seminar last year in San Francisco regarding the Japanese High-Speed rail, will be conducting another seminar after the September Meeting. The Authority Meeting will be held in the morning and the Japan High-Speed Rail seminar will be hosted in the afternoon.

Executive Director Morshed reported that there will be a Eurailspeed Conference in Milan, Italy on November 7th – 9th. For anyone interested, there is information at Eurailspeed.com.

Executive Director Morshed reported that when funds were available from a passing of the High-Speed Rail bond measure, the staff would move forward with the project level EIR/EIS. The bond funds would allow for a substantially larger budget and the hiring of additional personnel required to handle the work without costly delays or additional costs for the project.

Implementation Plan

Executive Director Morshed requested the approval of the final version of the implementation plan that was presented at the previous Authority Meeting. Member Petrillo moved to approve the Implementation Plan, Member Diridon seconded, which carried 5-0.

Program Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement

Deputy Director Dan Leavitt presented an overview of the key changes in the draft program EIR/EIS and a proposed schedule and procedure for the consideration and certification of the Final EIR/EIS.

Public Comment

Elva Lopez, State Senator Dean Florez's Office

Ms. Lopez read a letter from State Senator Dean Florez. Senator Florez shares the belief with the Authority, of making high-speed rail travel in California a reality. Rapid growth and transportation issues have created the immediate need for high-speed rail in the state.

Alex M. Peltzer, City of Visalia

Mr. Peltzer expressed gratitude for staff's work at requiring an additional study of alignment options from Fresno to Bakersfield to serve a potential Visalia station. were included in the 06/07 budget.

Timothy Grabiell, National Resources Defense Council

Mr. Grabiell expressed concern over the alignment through Taylor Yards in Los Angeles, however, Mr. Grabiell was satisfied with the study of a wider corridor to determine an alignment in this region.

Tracy Verardo, California State Parks Foundation

Ms. Verardo thanked the staff of California High-Speed Rail for their open communication and flexibility in resolving different issues affecting the California State Parks.

Meeting adjourned at 3:45 pm.